

Mr. Speaker, these events which took place in Belarus last week cannot go unchallenged. I am calling today for a complete investigation by the State Department of these unwarranted acts of aggression by the Belarusian military. I hope that this investigation will force the country of Belarus to hold the parties who participated in these senseless acts responsible for their actions.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO REFORM MEDICAID

(Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, this morning I would like to talk about Government program "A." Can you guess what Government program "A" is? Here are some hints: First and foremost, it is a bureaucratic nightmare.

Second, it is riddled with fraud. In fact, the U.S. Justice Department estimates that nearly 10 percent of its money is lost to fraud every year.

Third, its rate of growth is both astronomical and unsustainable.

What is Government program "A"? Well, given my clues I know there are a lot of candidates, but today I am speaking about Medicaid.

And today, Republicans will introduce legislation to reform Medicaid. We will save costs by eliminating needless bureaucracy, cutting fraud and abuse, and allowing State and local officials to run the program in the most efficient manner possible. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this important reform effort.

A SAD DAY IN AMERICA

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, sometimes writers labor for years to get their manuscripts published and never get a chance. But in America, if you blow up a few people and terrorize a nation, you become Ernest Hemingway overnight.

That is right. Just ask the Unabomber. The Unabomber, who killed at least 3 people, injured at least 23 others over a period of 18 years, demanded that his manuscript be published, and major newspapers around the country, fearing more violence, obliged.

What is next Mr. Speaker? Will the Unabomber demand time on Larry King? I say it is a sad day in America when our newspapers have to protect the public. The truth is, while the FBI is hiding behind the fifth amendment, the Unabomber is qualifying for Social Security as a terrorist.

Beam me up, Mr. Speaker.

AMERICAN PEOPLE REAFFIRMING IDEAS THAT MAKE AMERICA GREAT

(Mr. HILLEARY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HILLEARY. Mr. Speaker, last November when the American people went to the polls, they began the process to totally change their Government. They were not consumed by some vicious desire to destroy Government. Quite the opposite. Last November the American people reaffirmed the ideas that make America a great country: freedom from oppressive Government and a strong commitment to family and personal responsibility.

The American people have come to identify the Democrat Party as being opposed to those ideas. Liberal Democrats clamor for more Government. But they fail to recognize that more Government means less freedom. Fortunately, there are Democrats that are beginning to see the light of day.

Since the November election, 132 elected Democrats have become Republicans. The latest to join the Republican ranks are Tennessee State Senators Milton Hamilton and Rusty Crowe. This gives Republicans control of the Tennessee Senate for the first time since reconstruction.

We heartily welcome the senators. They have joined a party that believes in traditional American values, one that does not see a Government program behind every problem.

MEDICARE: BULLDOZING, NOT LEGISLATING

(Mr. FAZIO of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, as we heard this morning, Republicans are calling on us to consider changing Medicare and Medicaid, and yet they really do not want a debate or they would schedule hearings to consider these very fundamental issues. One day of hearings on Medicare, none in the Committee on Commerce, on Medicaid. I had to go to the Webster's Dictionary to find a term that seems to fit the circumstance. "Audacity: bold or arrogant disregard of normal restraints." Maybe the better term would be gall, gall that creates rancor and bitterness; boldness coupled with impudent assurance and insolence.

The American people, 37 million of them on Medicare, ought to be reacting with rancor because they are not being allowed to participate in this very fundamental debate about how a program that is essential to this country and to all of our senior citizens will be adjusted.

Certainly it is appropriate to have it on our agenda. But are we just going to take bills introduced today on Medicare and pass them in a week? That is not legislating, that is bulldozing.

REPUBLICANS ESTABLISHING PRIORITIES

(Mr. RIGGS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, liberal Democrats are content to let Medicare go bankrupt. Some even deny the importance of the report by the Medicare trustees that show that Medicare will be bankrupt by the year 2002.

This is unacceptable. This is a total denial of reality. Liberal Democrats would rather sit back and watch Medicare go bankrupt than gather up the courage to save this program. They would rather demagogue than lead.

There is no excuse for this inaction. Medicare must be saved and strengthened for current and future seniors. Over 35 million Americans depend on Medicare right now. If we do nothing, as the liberals suggest, those 35 million Americans will have no Medicare in 7 years. It will be bankrupt. What will liberals tell our grandparents then?

Mr. Speaker, since the beginning of this Congress Republicans have tried to reestablish priorities. Surely our parents and grandparents come before petty politics and demagoguery, and that is why we will save and strengthen Medicare.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION PROTECTING THE RIGHT OF PA- TIENT CHOICE

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, hold on to your wallets, middle America.

The Republican proposal to cut billions of dollars in Medicare and Medicaid is Robin Hood in reverse.

It takes from the poor and the middle class to give tax breaks to the richest people in America.

Senior citizens will pay higher premiums and higher deductibles if the Republicans get their way with Medicare.

The Senate Republicans, meanwhile, would force America's senior citizens into managed care plans.

I have introduced a bill that would protect the right of patient choice so you can choose your own doctor instead of being forced into managed care.

Everybody agrees that we need to put the Medicare Program on a strong actuarial basis.

But the Republican proposal just does not get the job done.

The Republican plan deserves to go down to defeat.

THE CAREERS BILL

(Mr. GOODLING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, since we have so little time today to discuss